

MMS Fast Facts

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Ten Facts You Should Know About MMS

The Federal government owns a vast amount of land—both onshore and offshore. The Minerals Management Service (MMS), an agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages the Nation's energy and mineral resources on the 1.7 billion offshore acres of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and the collection and distribution of mineral revenues generated from bonus bids, rents and royalties generated from the Federal OCS and Federal and Indian lands onshore.

As Congress considers legislative proposals regarding energy and mineral development on Federal lands, we thought it would be helpful to provide ten quick facts associated with the bureau's stewardship of our Nation's natural resources and mineral revenues from the OCS, Federal, and Indian lands. You can find more details on MMS's responsibilities and activities through the web links below.

1. **OCS 5-Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program.** The OCS Lands Act (OCSLA) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to grant mineral leases on the OCS. Section 18 of the OCSLA requires the Secretary to prepare a 5-Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program that consists of a 5-year schedule of proposed lease sales that shows the size, timing, and location of potential leasing activity. In addition, the 5-year Program must balance the priorities of national energy needs, environmentally sound and safe operations, and fair market return to the taxpayer. For more information on the current program for 2007-2012, visit the MMS website at: <http://www.mms.gov/5-year/>
2. **Draft Proposed 5-Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program (DPP).** The Draft Proposed 5-Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2010-2015 was issued on January 16, 2009, and is the second step in a multi-year process to develop a new oil and gas leasing program. The DPP seeks public comment on all aspects of a new program. On February 10, 2009, Secretary Salazar announced his strategy for developing a comprehensive offshore energy plan that includes conventional and renewable energy resources and he extended the comment period on the DPP until September 21, 2009. For more information, visit the MMS website at: <http://www.mms.gov/5-year/2010-2015New5-YearHome.htm>
3. **OCS Oil and Gas Resource Assessment.** MMS estimates of technically recoverable oil and gas resources in undiscovered fields on the OCS (2006, mean estimates) total 86 billion barrels of oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of gas. For more information, visit the MMS website at: <http://www.mms.gov/revdiv/RedNatAssessment.htm>
4. **OCS Renewable Energy Program.** The Energy Policy Act of 2005 provided new authority to MMS for the management of renewable energy development on the OCS. On April 29, Secretary Salazar issued a final rulemaking to encourage responsible development of OCS

renewable energy resources. In June, MMS offered 5 exploratory leases to applicants authorizing meteorological towers offshore Delaware and New Jersey for collection of wind data that will be used to support future decisions on commercial renewable wind energy projects. In September, MMS received its first commercial application for wind development offshore Virginia. For more information, visit the MMS website at:

<http://www.mms.gov/offshore/RenewableEnergy/index.htm>

5. **OCS Safety.** The MMS regards the safety of OCS personnel, of the environment and of operations as top priorities. The MMS has regulatory oversight of OCS operations and works with operators to ensure that all aspects of OCS energy and mineral exploration, development, production and abandonment activities on the OCS are conducted in a safe manner. For more information, visit the MMS website at:
<http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/offshore/safety/overview.html>
6. **Revenue Collection and Disbursement.** In Fiscal Year 2008, MMS collected and disbursed \$23.4 billion in mineral revenues to states, American Indians and the U.S. Treasury. For more information, visit the MMS website at: <http://www.mrm.mms.gov/MRMWebStats/default.aspx>
7. **Financial Management.** MMS is responsible for ensuring that all revenues are efficiently, effectively, and accurately collected, accounted for and disbursed in a timely manner. For more information, visit the MMS website at:
<http://www.mrm.mms.gov/ReportingServices/RepServhome.htm>
8. **Audit and Compliance Management.** Between Fiscal Year 2006 and Fiscal Year 2008, MMS closed 791 audits and collected \$213.2 million through the audit process. Additionally, MMS completed 4,565 compliance reviews and collected \$123.0 million through the compliance review process. Since 1982, MMS Audit and Compliance work has yielded over \$3.5 billion in revenue. For more information, visit the MMS website at:
<http://www.mrm.mms.gov/PDFDocs/20081216.pdf>
9. **Indian Trust Responsibilities.** The MMS works with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to administer mineral revenues for mineral-producing Indian Tribes and nearly 20,000 individual Indian mineral lease owners. MMS conducts outreach activities with the Indian mineral lease owners to ensure accuracy and timeliness of collections and disbursements of Indian mineral revenues. For more information, visit the MMS website at:
<http://www.mrm.mms.gov/TribServ/Outreach.htm>
10. **Ensuring Fair Market Value for OCS Leases.** Once an OCS lease sale is completed and the high bidders for each tract are publicly announced, the MMS follows specific bid adequacy procedures to ensure that the Federal government receives fair market value for the tracts receiving bids. For more information, visit the MMS website at:
<http://www.mms.gov/revaldiv/FairMarketValue.htm>

To find out more about MMS, visit our website at <http://www.mms.gov> or call the MMS Office of Congressional Affairs at (202) 208-3502. For past editions of MMS Fast Facts, visit <http://www.mms.gov/ooc/newweb/congressionalaffairs/congress.htm>